

## INVITED TALKS

One of the main purposes of the workshop was to seek out the opinions and concerns of stakeholders. Stakeholders include farmers, bankers, engineers, insurance agents, academics, and people from nonprofit groups, non-government organizations, as well as local, state and federal government officials – anyone who has a stake in the Great Lakes region. But since this was a diverse group with various experiences, the workshop organizers selected a series of keynote speakers to prepare the participants with some common background knowledge of the region, climate change, and the plans for a National Assessment. The speakers themselves are from various walks of life and provide a range of different points of view. They were chosen because of their knowledge and interest in climate change and in the Great Lakes region. Both scientists and stakeholders were educated, as the speakers provided deep insight into changes that were already evident in the region, and that could likely become more intense in the near future.

The *Invited Talks* portion of the workshop supplied a foundation for understanding some of the complexities and issues of climate change and its potential impacts. In order to present a feeling of “being there,” and to allow you to obtain the facts as they were presented at the workshop, the speakers were recorded and then the recordings were transcribed. We were striving to present you with a “snapshot in time” of unedited compilation of the talks, so that you can experience the same information that was presented to the workshop participants on May 4-7, 1998. Of course, spoken words are not necessarily as clean as those that the speakers would use in formal writing. But the conversational tones of the presentations were important to get the messages across to the workshop participants at the time, and we feel, to the get the same messages across to the stakeholders who read this report afterwards. It should also be noted that there were some talks, where technical difficulties during either part or all of the presentation precluded clean recordings. In these instances, after-the-fact summaries are instead provided.

